

Tree of Life Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2024, Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Solberg, Sandy McCarthy, Jim Lemaux, Deb Zimmer, Heidi Beckham, Jenny Jenkins, Mark Templet, Chris Lake. Staff: Jill Waldrop, Diana Frederick, John Burkwall

Absent: Ronnie Whitman, Russ Larson

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

B. PC opened with prayer.

C. Consent of agenda and minutes

1. A motion was made to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing stewardship starting up under new business by Jim Lemaux, seconded by Jenny Jenkins. Motion passed.
2. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mark Templet, seconded by Sandy McCarthy. Motion passed.

D. Financial report

1. August income was \$34,344.40
2. August expenses \$46,687.88
3. Showing a deficit of \$12,343.48
4. Seeds for growth balance \$20,960.04
5. Little discrepancy with Internal Ministries Balance that Jim will be discussing with Peggy
6. Mortgage Liability came to 1,021,263.31 from a year ago of \$1,074,813.79
7. SEEDS for Growth now \$181,993.41 up from \$159,493.41 (Pat Voelz contribution helped)
8. A few dedicated funds were mentioned by Jim
 - i. Kings Embrace down
 - ii. Disaster relief up
 - iii. Scholarship up
9. P & L Statement looks decent
 - i. Giving down
 1. Pledged down from \$18,000 to 15,000
 2. Non-pledged down from \$12,000 to \$9,400
 - ii. Memorial Gifts for August were \$2,550 much of which was for Klotz family. PC will discuss with Larry to see if a desire to dedicate something for Brenda with the money since such a big amount.
 - iii. \$2,000 came in from Paideia
10. Expenses – received 2 benefit payments due to the timing
 - i. Building & Utilities – electricity went up but should go down now due to season
 - ii. Total building expense YTD is \$14,404.87
11. Dennis McConnell suggests moving \$25,000 into a money market
12. Next month Jim will go deeper into the giving side
13. Motion was made to accept the financial report by Sandy McCarthy and seconded by Jenny Jenkins. Motion passed.

E. Pastoral report

1. Going on vacation for seven days starting Wednesday
 - i. Concerned about Carolyn McArthur – has assigned people to be attentive
 - ii. Concerned about Rosemary Cartwright because she has not been eating or walking.

2. Ordination went well for Bunny Dillard. Protocols were met with so many bishops present. She will be installed in her church Sunday, Sep 22.
3. Lake Livingston is a mess and not sure what to do.
4. Keith Swatzel has turned in all of his things so fully gone.
5. Bogart preached on Sunday. He and Bishop Mike will be leading the service on Sunday.
6. Kings Embrace's computer lab is up. They might start a classroom (of 10) in January. Fundraising will be starting. The goal is to fix the continuing power problem which would be about \$2000.
7. Paideia needs to take their signs down. PC will address that issue when he comes back. Jim said that he will reach out to the person he communicates with.

F. Old business

1. Need of a new insurance policy was handled by Russ Larsen and Jill. They found us a great policy for what we had before for \$24,000 a year. Workers comp is still at Church Mutual. Next year they may bundle them. Jim suggested that we notify the congregation this info.
2. Building Usage & Rental Policy is still being reviewed by Deb's committee and Jill. They have a meeting set up for Oct 10.
3. Financial audit – Jim said that he met with the audit team. Bernadette McCracken will visit with us next month to go over the audit.
 - i. They decided we need more separation of responsibility so went through that process. They thought best to take Heidi & Peggy off of check signing responsibility and add the fourth board chair, Deb Zimmer, to the other board chairs to sign. A motion was made to that effect by Mark and seconded by Jenny. Motion passed.
 - ii. We have about 25 years of records stored away. Plans to do something about that is in the works (limiting the number of years kept and do some scanning). The motion was made to transition from physical paper to putting online with keeping six years only was made by Sandy and seconded by Jenny. Motion passed.

G. New business

1. A Sunday School update was given by Diana Frederick. She reported having 16 in confirmation this year, 2 in HS, and 13 in PreK-5th (3 more with Wades adopted girls). 8 mentors will assist; subs are Angela Brown & Lisa Lemaux. Teachers PreK-2nd is Katherine Lake & Sue Grace, 3rd-5th is Ikeria & Jessalyn Christianson, 6th -8th Diana, 9th-12th Deb. Diana said that she is planning to get a program, Digital Sparkhouse for all the grades to look at for use.
2. Deb said that we had one new member, Crystal Campbell, joined on September 4th. Deb made the motion to accept her into the congregation. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. Nothing for Adopt a Project right now.
4. Stewardship will start a little earlier this year (this Sunday, Sep 22nd). Jenny Jenkins will be leading the charge. She bought a program, Our Money Story, recommended by Bunny that looked very good. It will be used 4 times in a 6-week period. She asked council to make pledges this week so we can walk in with an amount already started. Jenny asked Jim if he had any idea for budget for next year. He said that he will work on that. The new pledge campaign is set up in Realm per Heidi. Jenny asked to be able to view the account so to keep up with what is happening with that. Heidi said that she would set that up. Jenny will be trying to get "money stories" (positive feelings) about giving from individuals and church.

- H. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15.